

Districts announce deadlines for hands-on mission kits

Holston churches are gearing up to raise \$125,000 for India and collect supplies for Liberia and Zimbabwe in the conference's annual spring mission project.

On May 2 or an alternate date, all local churches are requested to take special offerings to benefit "Hope of Today" ministries in Hyderabad, India. The offerings should be brought to Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, N.C., June 13-16, in

the form of a check.

In the "hands-on" part of the mission project, each of Holston's 12 districts have been assigned food, clothing, school, health or medical supplies to gather for designated missions in Africa. Once assembled, the buckets or kits should be brought to the district drop-off points on the days listed below.

When dropping off supplies at district drop-off points, each church

is requested to bring one check that includes the \$5 shipping charge accompanying each bucket or kit, said Missions Coordinator Bill Daugherty.

Congregations should also note that videotapes of the India mission designated to benefit from Holston's offerings are available in district offices.

For more information, go to www.holstonconference.com/missions and click on "Hands-On Mission Offering" or call Daugherty at (865) 690-4080.

● Abingdon

Drop off school kits at Pleasant View UMC, June 8-9 during office hours.

● Big Stone Gap

Drop off health kits at the district office by June 4, 4 p.m.

● Chattanooga

Drop off boys' clothing kits at Brainerd UMC on Thursday, June 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

● Cleveland

Drop off health kits at First Cleveland UMC, June 9-10 during office hours. Please visit church office first.

● Johnson City

Drop off health kits at First Johnson City UMC, June 7-10 during office hours.

● Kingsport

Drop off health kits at First Broad Street UMC, June 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

● Knoxville

Drop off food buckets at Washington Pike UMC, June 10, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

● Maryville

Drop off girls' clothing kits at Fairview UMC, on or before June 11.

● Morristown

Drop off medical kits to the district office by June 9.

● Oak Ridge

Drop off food buckets at Kern Memorial UMC, June 7-8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; June 9, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Office closed 12:30-1 p.m.

● Tazewell

Drop off school kits at Ebenezer UMC, June 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; June 10, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

● Wytheville

Drop off kits at Dublin UMC or Mt. Pleasant UMC by May 31. ■

Last year's mission, continued from page 1

year, Roan Mountain UMC joined other Johnson City District churches in assembling school kits for needy people in Kenya. The kits included paper, construction paper, pencils, pens, crayons, a writing tablet, a pocket dictionary and a backpack.

This year, Holston Conference will gather supply kits to send to missions in Liberia and Zimbabwe.

The Morrisons and others in the Johnson City District are collecting health kits for Ganta Hospital in Liberia. The kits will include: a bath towel, washcloth, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, deodorant, Tylenol or Aleve, lotion and perfumed spray.

"I know each year we collect items and send them year after year, not knowing how they touch someone's life," Morrison said. "It was such a joy to hear from someone personally, realizing that the little things we do can make a difference in someone's life around the world."

The pastor's family has stayed in contact with its new friend, sending sneakers, flip flops, art supplies and bubble-blowing soap in recent packages to Kenya. They recently received a second mailing that included letters for both Debbie and Meghan, age 16. The girl also sent pictures of her church.

In Meghan's letter, Mwela was excited about the fact that she and her American pen pal have similar interests, including art and drawing.

The Morrisons have shown the letters to members of their church and Debbie believes that it has been inspiring. "They just teared up," she said. "They were very encouraged, very touched."

She hopes that telling about her letters from Kenya will inspire other Holston churches to participate in this year's conference-wide missions project. Helping others is something that Debbie and her family feel strongly about.

"I think it makes a connection between Christians around the world." ■

Holly Craft is a free-lance writer living in Maryville, Tenn.



Photo by Annette Bender, The Call

Ribbon cutting

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Holston Home for Children and Holston Conference leaders dedicate a new family service center at a March 10 dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony. One of five Holston Home family service center locations, the facility relocated from Cokesbury Center to 900 East Hill Avenue in Knoxville. Pictured from left to right: the Rev. Charles Hutchins, Anita Henderlight, Jennifer Aldous, Melissa Russell, Mirie Taljaard, William Rose, Kent Bewley, the Rev. Bill Fowler, Ed Harmon, Bill Willard, Tony Specia, and Cindy Adorante.



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